

September 23, 2016

TO: ALL POTENTIALLY INTERESTED PARTIES:

RE: City of Stamford (DWSRF Project No. 62685) – Water System Improvements

The attached document is being provided for your information. This is not a permit application. No action is being requested from your agency and no response is required.

The attached document is an environmental determination issued by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for a proposed project to be funded through the TWDB. Pursuant to the environmental assessment requirements of 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 371, Subchapter E, the Executive Administrator of the TWDB has determined that the proposed action described in the attached documents may be exempted from formal environmental review requirements. A review by TWDB staff included a consideration of potential environmental impacts and permitting requirements. If there were any concerns about particular regulations or permits, the appropriate regulatory agency would have been contacted for clarification, and this would be described in the attached environmental determination.

Comments regarding this determination may be submitted to the Director of Regional Water Project Development, TWDB, P.O. Box 13231, Austin, Texas 78711-3231.

September 23, 2016

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

In accordance with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) environmental review process established at 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 371, Subchapter E, for projects to be funded through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program and consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S. Code §4321, et seq., the Executive Administrator of the TWDB has determined that the proposed action identified below may be exempted from formal environmental review requirements:

City of Stamford, Jones and Haskell Counties
Water System Improvements Project
DWSRF Project No. 62685
Total TWDB Loan: \$9,530,000
Total Amount of Principal Forgiveness: \$10,235,708

The City of Stamford (City) is proposing to use funding from a \$9,530,000 DWSRF Program loan and \$10,235,708 in principal forgiveness for the planning, design, and construction phases required to implement water system improvements. Specifically, the City proposes to: (1) replace the mechanical and electrical equipment at the raw water pump station and replace the raw water transmission pipeline; (2) conduct minor improvements at the existing Water Treatment Plant (WTP) including, but not limited to, the construction of a new pre-treatment system, a membrane filtration system, chemical storage, feed systems, upgrade of existing storage tanks, a high service pump station, an instrumentation system, and ancillary support systems; (3) complete replacement of the City's existing elevated storage tank; and (4) replace of key water distribution lines throughout the City that have been identified as highest risk for water loss and/or cross contamination. In addition, the project will require adequate valves, fittings, and all necessary appurtenances, including pavement repairs. Work will be conducted within existing rights-of-ways and previously disturbed sites. Existing lines will be replaced by new lines in proximate locations. Environmental impacts should be similar to rehabilitation activities and limited to those associated with excavation, pipe installation, and road repair.

The City is responsible for ensuring that no project elements are contaminated with lead-based paint, as that would make that portion of the project ineligible for TWDB funding. The TWDB does not fund the testing, remediation, removal, disposal, or related work for contaminated or potentially contaminated material.

According to the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Archeological Sites Atlas, previously-recorded significant or potentially significant sites occur adjacent to the project site. Therefore, coordination with the THC was required. The THC provided a response on July 20, 2016 stating

that, if the project solely consists of demolition and replacement of the existing storage tanks, pump station, and distribution lines, then it will have no effect on historic properties.

TWDB staff conducted a review of the United States Geological Survey National Hydrography Dataset and identified a number of potentially jurisdictional waters of the U.S., including wetlands, within the proposed project area. Therefore, coordination with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) was required. USACE provided a response on August 18, 2016, stating that the proposed project will involve activities subject to the requirements of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (SWF-2016-00259). USACE determined that the discharge of dredged or fill materials into waters of the U.S. associated with this project is authorized by Nationwide Permit (NWP) 12 for Utility Line Activities. USACE based this decision on a preliminary jurisdictional determination that there are waters of the U.S. on the project site.

TWDB staff conducted a desktop review of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Texas Natural Diversity Dataset. According to this analysis, the proposed raw water pipeline intersects Elemental Occurrence ID #3259 for the Brazos Water Snake (*Nerodia harteri*). This species has been found on the upper Brazos River drainage in shallow water with rocky bottoms and along rocky portions of stream banks. The Brazos Water Snake is currently a state listed threatened species. Therefore, coordination with TPWD and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was required. TPWD provided a response on August 23, 2016 via e-mail. Based on a review of the documentation and description of the project, the Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program does not anticipate significant adverse impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species, or other fish and wildlife resources. USFWS provided a response on August 29, 2016 via e-mail. USFWS states that potential water quality impacts to threatened and endangered species are unlikely due to buffering of wastewater by Lake Stamford and the distance of discharge to occupied sharpnose shiner (*Notropis oxyrhynchus*) and smallmouth shiner (*N. buccula*) habitat located in the Brazos River. Therefore, no impacts to threatened or endangered species or habitat are anticipated as a result of this project.

The specified project elements should not entail significant adverse impacts to the quality of the human environment. Documentation supporting this determination is on file at the TWDB.

This determination may be rescinded if:

- (1) The project no longer meets the requirements for a CE as a result of changes in the project;
- (2) The project involves extraordinary circumstances as defined in 31 TAC Section 371.41; or
- (3) The project may violate or has violated federal, state, local, or tribal laws.

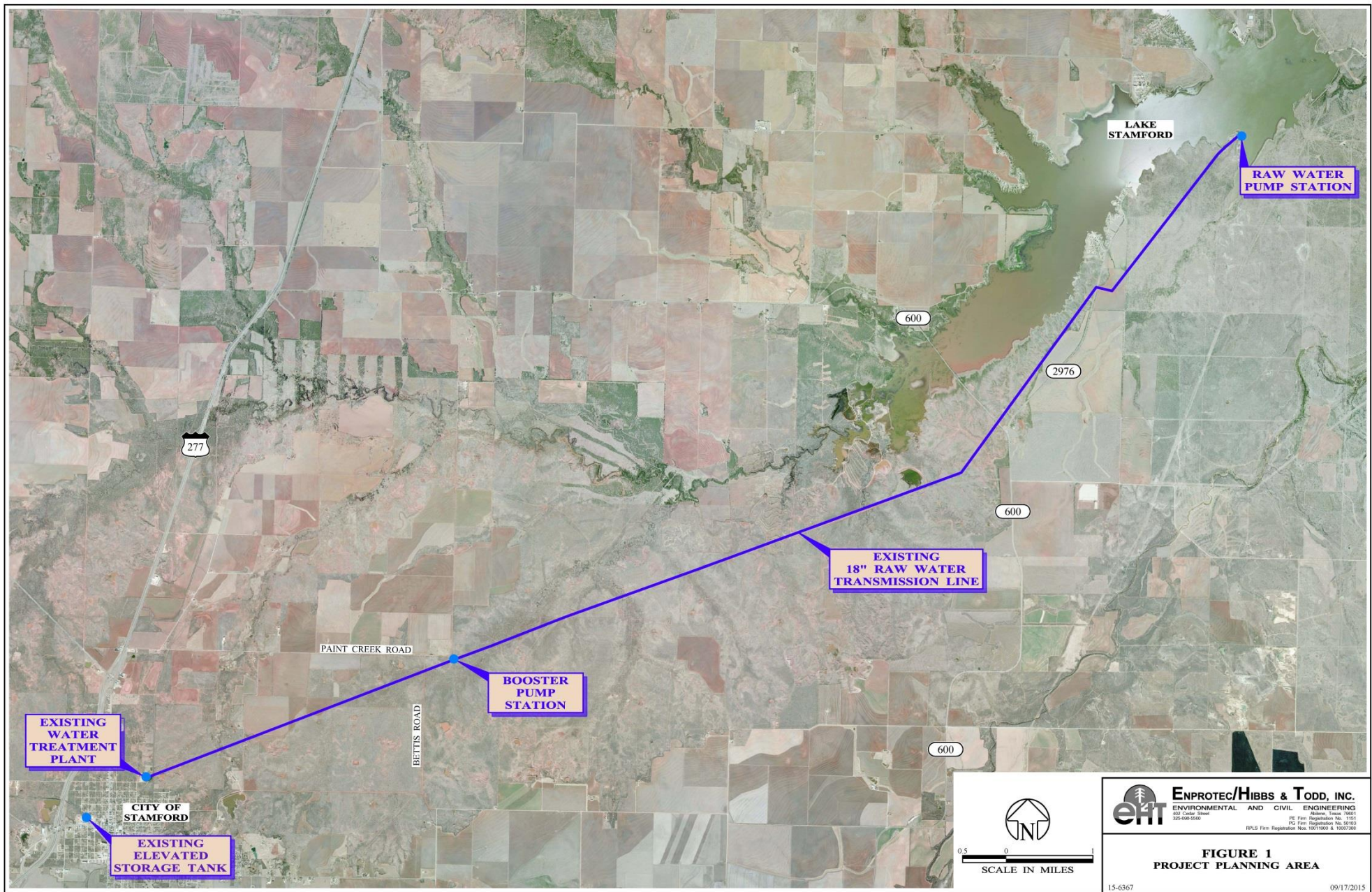
The project also must comply with the following conditions:

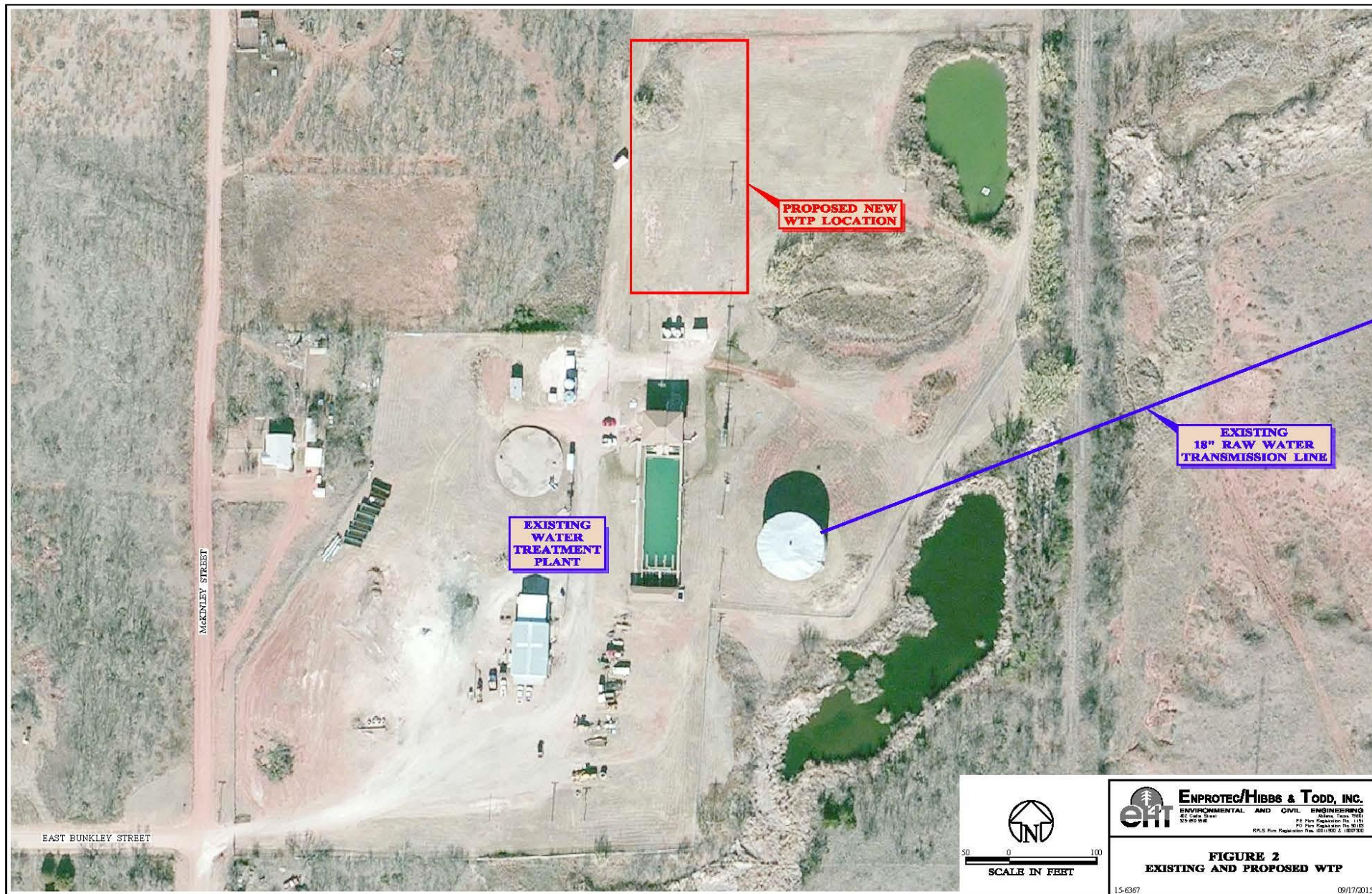
- Compliance with the terms and conditions of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 12 for Utility Line Activities (SWF-2016-00259);
- Demolition of the encapsulated tank will be completed via torch cutting. All work will be done in compliance with all applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards for torch cutting of materials containing lead-based paint. All metal from the encapsulated tank will be delivered to a licensed scrap metal yard. A copy of the

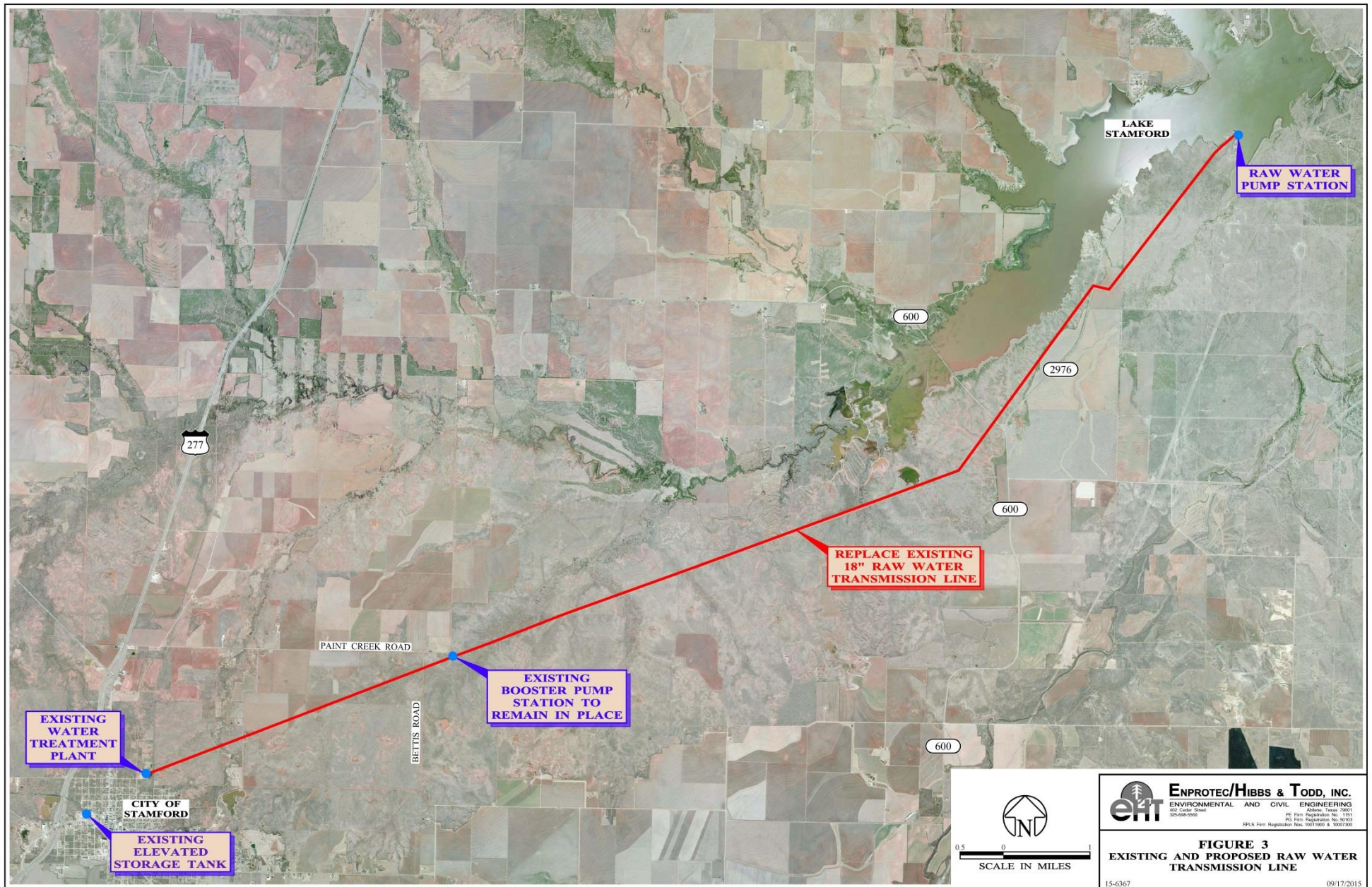
chain-of-custody to the scrap metal dealer from the smelting facility will be provided to TWDB. The City will also provide photographic documentation of the demolition of the encapsulated tank to TWDB;

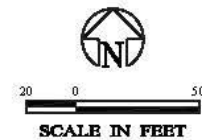
- Standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources; and,
- Standard emergency condition for the discovery of threatened and endangered species.

Comments regarding this determination may be submitted to the Director of Regional Water Project Development, Texas Water Development Board, P.O. Box 13231, Austin, Texas 78711-3231







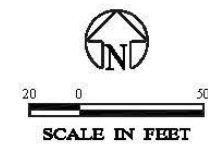


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FIGURE 4
EXISTING AND PROPOSED
RAW WATER PUMP STATION
IMPROVEMENTS

13-0347

09/09/2013



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FIGURE 5
EXISTING AND PROPOSED
ELEVATED STORAGE TANK

15-0367

09/17/2015